Amir of Afghanistan Makes a Sightseeing Tour Outside His Domain

ALCUTTA, Jan. 29.-The amir of Afghanistan arrived in this city yesterday and immediately made it known that his visit was of a purely private character. Nevertheless, formal calls were exchanged between the amir and the vicercy, and then the amir settled down to a program of might seeing.

That really is the end and aim of the journey, which is a remarkable one. The amir is a tourist, and as he is, for the first time in his life, outside the boundaries of his native country, he is informing himself and enjoying himself as only a traveler can who is under no necessity of considering the cost of pleasure or of anything else that interests him.

He left his capital, Kabul, late in December, and has been on the way ever since, pausing when and where he listed, making side excursions to see points of interest or to pray at famous shrines. For this private unofficial tour he surrounded himself with a retinue of no less than 1.500 persons, who are now quartered in this city.

It must be difficult for Americans to get an adequate conception of the amir either ss a man or a ruler, for there is no country with which new world people come in direct or even diplomatic contact that offers any sort of analogy to Afghanistan and its civilization. There is civilization in Afghanistan; there are stone houses, splendid palaces, an extraordinary literature, which itself implies educational institutions; well organized government, laws, sourts, army, police; but there is not one mile of railroad, and there are few other roads suitable for wassied vehicles; and its monarch, a man of native intelligence and highly educated according to Afghan standards, has had his first ride in a railway train this month, his first ride in a motor car, and has had his eyes opened in many other respects to things which by mere force of familiarity we have come to regard as essential accompaniments of

Afghanistan is one of the few countries from which Great Britain had to retreat after gaining a footheld on the soil. Before the middle of the last century the Afghans drove out the British garrisons and their defendants with great slaughter. No serious attempt has been made to recover military control of the country, but what the British army failed to do has been accomplished so far as is necessary for British interests by diplomacy and

After much negotiation the late amir, father of the present ruler, agreed that Afghanistan should accept the advice of the British government in India on all questions relating to fereign affairs. This means in plain language that Afghanistan is dependent on Great Britain. It cannot make war with or enter treaty relations with any other government and cannot maintain agents or representatives in foreign capitals.

So far as its domestic affairs are concerned, however, Afghanistan is as independent as the United States and the amir is its absolute ruler. He is in his own person the court of appeals for all kinds of cases and he can abrogate the laws or proclaim new ones without let or hindrance from Great Britain. There were two considerations which induced the late amir to list of nations—the payment to him by the Indian government of \$600,000 annually and the guarantee by the British government that Afghanistan should be protected against unprovoked aggression.

The country covers an area about equal ion is estimated at nearly 5,000,000. The present amir was born in 1872 and succeeded to the throne in October, 1901.

He formally reaffirmed his father's treaty with Great Britain in 1905 and at that time announced that he would make a journey to India in 1907. His official designation is rather formidable to English-reading eyes, out really not more se than the complete designation of other monarchs, the king of England, for example, to whom officially we must refer as "his most excellent majesty. Edward the Seventh, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British deminions beyond the seas, king, defender of the faith, emperor of India." The amir's designation is "his highness Siraj-ui-millatwad-din Amir Habib Ullah Khan," which is (Copyright, 1907, by Frank G. Carpenter.) debased types. comparatively modest in dimensions however grand its meaning may be. Since his accession he has also been made a grand commander of the Order of St. Michael and

The amir supports a considerable harem. It is not known how many concubines he has, but there are four regularly recognized wives, the chief of whom, known as the queen wife, enjoys an allowance of \$375,000 a year. The allowances of the other wives are \$300,000, \$150,000 and \$75,000, according to seniority.

There is also a queen mother in this complex family, and it is well known that the young monarch has a monkey and parrot time of it in maintaining domestic discipline. The queen wife, who was formerly a slave girl, and whose beauty infatuated Habib Uliah while he was yet a prince, is a termagant of the flercest description.

She is madly jealous, obviously with cause enough, and has not viewed the accession of other wives with any degree of equanimity, but she cannot help herself, because the amir maintains, and the law justifies him, that his rank entitles him to at least four wives. So the queen wife takes it out on her attendants. She chastimes them freely and frequently, and thus far has killed three of them with her own hand. Abominable as this may seem in the eyes of western civilization, the worst of it is, so far as the amir is concerned, that the queen mother, the queen wife and all the other wives are forever interfering in politics. Their jealousies and conflicting intrigues keep the court in turmoil, and tenure of office is precarious, for Habib Ullah is not celebrated for firmness. He is good natured and prone to avoid trouble by yielding to it.

In his journey through India he has been conspicuous for his amiable qualities and those that should mark a sovereign. end of stories are new current that tall of his unaffected dignity, courtesy, appreciation of all attentions paid to him and

Prattle of the Youngsters

Teacher-Johnny, can you tell me what a

Johnny-Yes, ma'am. It's a boy what comes to school with a smile on his face. Teacher (in manual training school)-

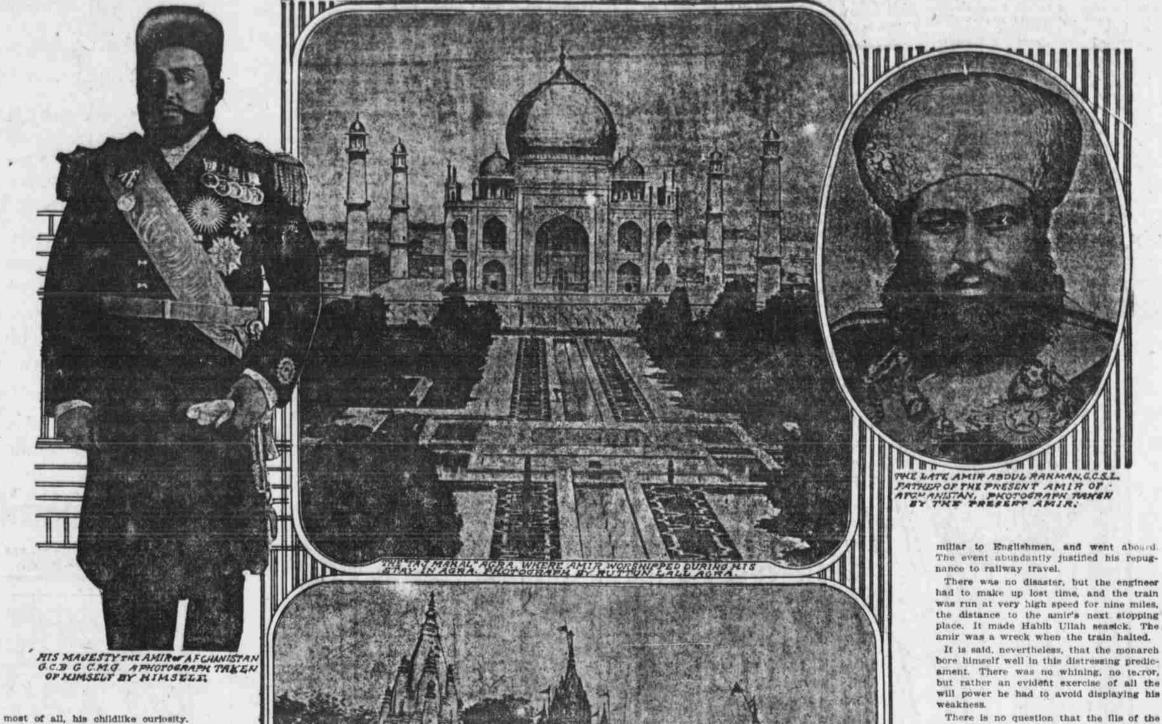
What may be regarded as the forerunner of the modern automobile? Shaggy Haired Pupil-Anybody that gits

A little 3-year-old awoke one morning and gazed in wonder at the snow-covered ground, the first he had ever seen.

'Oh, Eddie!" he exclaimed, turning to his older brother, "now you'll get it; mamma will whip you for spilling all the

Small Tommy-Our teacher whipped a boy today for whispering, but it didn't do any

Small Tommy-'Cause it made him holler ten times louder than he whispered.



He entered British territory on January 4 and received a formal welcome from a representative of the Indian government at the very frontier, but it was not until he reached the important city of Agra, ten days later, that demonstrations of considerable magnitude occurred. Meantime on the way from Peshawar he paused at Nowsheva and Attock, frontier towns, where he industriously took in all the

ican tourist in London or Paris. The fortresses in these towns naturally commanded his attention, and at Attock deprive his country of individuality in the he made a trip to a new bridge in process of construction over the Idus. On this occasion he walked far out on the structure where footing was anything but safe and easy in order to realise the height of the bridge above the river.

sights, quite in the manner of an Amer-

After leaving Attock he diverged from to that of the New England states, plus the main road in order to visit Sirhind and was during this first stage of the journey in India that he made acquaintance with a railroad. He arrived at the station half an hour after the train was scheduled to start, but the train had been held for him. A further delay then ensued owing to the amir's reluctance to risk himself on the strange contrivance, but at length he swallowed his fears, manifestly, observers say, because he deemed it unbecoming in a monarch to shrink from what was fa-

> One of the Richest Provinces of North and running back up the foot hills of the sota and it has several hundred thousand town of Oran. It is the chief seaport of

RAN, Western Algeria, Feb. 20.-(Special. Correspondence of The France. I landed at Oran three weeks ago, and have already made my way through the rich lands of the Tell, across the high plateaus which are upheld between the ranges of the Atlas mountains and down into the desert of Sahara. I am now back in Oran, the chief seaport of western Algeria, and am about to start Algiers, the capital.

African France. Before I begin describing my travels I Indeed, Algeria is by far the best piece today. Alaska and our outlying cotonies. Practic-Lake Chad, and covers, all told, an area steadily grows.

natives of the French republic.

Best French Colony.

want to tell you what the French have in of property France has outside her own Africa. Their possessions include more boundaries. It is her great winter garden, than one-third of the continent, a territory which furnishes the chief vegetables for several hundred thousand miles larger than all the French cities and the granary which the whole United States, together with supplies a large part of her flour. Fast steamers carry the garden stuff across the ally the whole of the Sahara west of the Meditarranean in a day and in thirty-six Libyan desert belongs to them, and that hours it is for sale in the Halles Ceneral alone is half as big as the United States in Paris. Some of the best wines used in proper. They have an enormous district France are made in this country, and south of the Sahara which is known as Algeria gives France imports to the amount French Central Africa, and several colonies of sixty odd million dollars a year. France, Congo, which is north of the Belgian Congo, lion dollars' worth of her wares to Algeria Louisiana. runs northward so as to take in a part of and the trade between the two countries

most absolutely governed by the French. It has more good land by far than both Pennsylvania and its population is more directly south of Cartagina in Spain. The and they are rapidly developing it. Algeria of those states. This land is known as the than a million. on the other hand is now a part of the Tell. It runs clear across Algeria and on The total population of the whole coun-French republic. It is a French state, it into Tunisia. It has been for centuries the try now approximates 5,000,000, and of these Boston, and it takes about two days to go holds its own elections and it has three granary of this part of the world. The almost 400,000 are French. There are also by ship from here to Marseilles. The port senators and six deputies in the Parila- Phoenecians and Carthaginians built em- several hundred thousand other Europeans, ment at Paris. Its governor general is a pires upon it, and it was for a long time made up of Spaniards, Italians, Maltese bay with a high, ragged mountain lookon a 265-mile railroad journey eastward to Frenchman and most of its officials are one of the principal bread baskets of im- and Jews. The rest of the Algerians are ing down upon it. East of the mountain century was conquered by the Arabs, whe also about 700,000 white Africans known

MINDUS BATHING ON BANKS OF THE GUMNA DURING THE ECLIPSE OF SUN ON TANUARY 140

---Bird's-Eye View of Algeria.

below them, and of the foothills running down to the Sahara. The country is just

ten times as large as the state of Illinois. Many look upon Algeria as a little strip ting across to the Sahara. The largest continuous contortion of the hips and a It is inhabited by 15,000,000 people, the most of mountain and desert. The truth is, that of these is at the east and is known as twisting of the waist. of whom are jet black negroes of the most part of it lying along the Mediterranean Constantine. It is almost as hig as Minne-

The richest of the French possessions, Atlas, has some of the richest soil upon more people. The next is Algiers, which western Algeria, and is the second city however, are along the south coast of the earth. It is only from thirty to a hundred is not far from the size of Missouri, with of the whole country in size. It contains Bee.)-I have left Morocco and Mediterranean sea, comprising the two miles wide, but is several hundred miles a population of 1,600,000, and the other is about 100,000 people, and is more French am now traveling in African great states of Algeria and Tunisia. Of long, including a territory about as large the western province of Oran, where I am than Algiers itself. It is situated not far these Tunisia is a protectorate. It is al- as New York and Massachusetts combined. writing. Oran is just about the size of from the borders of Morocco and almost

made the country Mohammedan, as it is as Kabyles and about 53,000 Jews.

Negroes and Ex-Slaves.

Here in Oran there are a large number Algeria consists of these rich lands of of Spaniards and many negroes who were Tell, of the high plateaus of the Atlas just originally brought across the Sahara as slaves and sold in the market of Algiers. In some of the Algerian cases the people about as long from east to west as from are about all negroes and I see many here Philadelphia to Cleveland, and as wide as in the town. The negro women often act from Washington to Boston by way of as shampooers in the Moorish bath houses, New York. It contains altogether as much and many of the men are beggars, who land as all New England added to New dance about singing weird songs to the along the guif of Guinea. The French herself, annually sends forty or fifty mil- York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and clashing of queer iron cymbals. One such followed my carriage today and I made beginning at the Mediterranean and cut- sort of a Nautch dance, consisting of a

Strait of Gibraltar is about as far away as the distance between New York and has a fine harbor, consisting of a beautiful perial Rome. It was fought for by the Mohammedans, Africans, and three out of there is a gulley or canyon with low hills Vandals, the Greeks and in the eighth every five of them is an Arab. There are extending off to the eastward, and in and on the sides of this is the town of Oran. There is some flat ground for the wharves, but back of them the buildings of the

the good time the amir had at Agra. He

Jumna river during the eclipse of the sun.

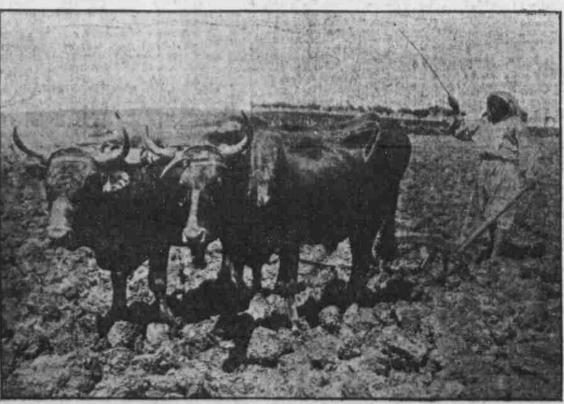
largely of a military character. The entire

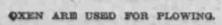
of Cossacks.

a disheartening chill.

the Mediterranean sea. Down near the port are great warehouses filled with alfa grass, bags of wheat and piled high with such wares; and immense drays, each carrying four or five tons, are ing loads that would seem an impossibility

(Continued on Page Seven.)







TWO GENTLEMEN OF THE VILLAGE NAIGHE

I maw that the soldiers were not wearing theirs I could not think of putting or mine.

That remark made the amir popular at once, and his popularity increased with every day that passed. He converses well with all manner of people and, like the true tourist, seems to believe that everybody he meets can tell him something intoresting.

For example, after the parade and while he was still surrounded by British officers of nigh rank, he saw a tall, good-looking woman crossing the grounds.

"Who is she?" he asked. They told him that she was the wife of a common sergeant.

"I want to speak to her," said he. Anybody who has had the slightest contact with military life in America or elsewhere will perceive the astounding nature of this request. The British sergeant is an essential feature of the military establishment, doubtless a very good sort of fellow, too, and his wife is a necessary person and presumably estimable, but it is not thinkable that she should breathe the same air as a colonel's wife, much less a general's, The officers, thinking that the amir had

misunderstood, repeated the explanation that the woman was a sergeant's wife, but he blandly refterated his wish to speak to her, and the embarrassed officers could do nothing but summen her. She was sadly flustered at thus being brought into the presence of royalty with her ordinary clothes on, but the amir had little difficulty in putting her at her ease, and they conversed for quite ten minutes.

This is a fair sample of all the happenings during Habib Ullah's stay at Agra. He had a question for everything he saw, cometimes childish, sometimes shrowd, but all betraying an eager interest in his ad-

It was in Agra that he took his first ride in a motor car, Lord Kitchener accompanying him. The amir had owned a car for two years. It was the gift of a distant admirer, but it has lain unused in the royal stables ever since it was delivered at

There was nobody to run the thing, perhaps, though it is hardly conceivable, for the late amir established several factories at Kabul where munitions of war are made, as well as other articles that require the services of skilled mechanics. More likely the amir's reluctance to railway travel was the manifestation of a general distrust of wheeled contrivances, and the motor car may have been regarded as a thing best let alone.

But that car will be put into co as soon as the amir returns to Kabul. The roads are good in and around Agra. Lord Kitchener took him at a moderate speeds several miles into the country. journey were more than compensated by

Habib Ullah was delighted and insisted liked everything from the bagpipe salute that the machine be driven at full speed on that greeted him on arrival as a feature the way back. He made known his intenof his formal reception to the remarkable tion of using his own car in the future, spectacle of a vast crowd bathing in the and it is fair to prophesy therefore that there will presently be a reform in the The accompanying picture, taken by an roads of Afghahistan.

The amir also took a short trip in a bal-Agra photographer, indicates the interest loon while he was at Agra, but he did not that any traveler would take in the scene, The formal reception was necessarily intimate that aeronautics would be made the fashionable diversion at Kabul. Mogarrison was turned out on parade and toring first presumably, and when the edge reviewed by the visiting monarch, who has worn off that balloon, perhaps,

rode on a horse, the cavalry in his retinue It is rather striking that while the amir galloping after him with all the abandon was ignorant of motor cars and ratiways It was during this review that one of the and much else that pertains to the ordinary life of western civilization he has pleasantest incidents of the journey cocurred. The weather, which is usually long been familiar with and personally exwarm and dazzingly bright at Agra, was pert at photography. While he was yet a prince he took an excellent picture of his as bad as it could be there. A drizzling father, and more recently he has taken one rain fell steadily all day and the wind had of himself. Both these productions of the

Soldiers were permitted to wear their royal photographer accompany this letter. overcoats until the amir was actually at The Amir is a Mohammedan, of course, hand, when, as a token of respect, they and very devout. His sightseeing was were doffed. Presently one of the British always interrupted at sunset for prayers, officers escorting the amir noticed that he on which occasions he would call in a loud was minus an overcoat. The officer sug- voice: "If there are any Mohammedans here let them now withdraw to pray." gested that he was in danger of catching It was his religious faith rather than his

severe cold, for his clothing was ouriosity as a tourist that led him to make a special trip to a suburb of Agra where "It doesn't matter," he responded, "I stands the Taj-Mahal, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. It was built about 250 years ago by the Emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his favorite wife, and the emperor himself, one of the greatest in Indian history, is also buried there.

The Taj-Mahal is more than a building, the majestic tomb being the central feature of elaborate gardens some 600 yards long by more than 300 wide. The gardens are beautiful in one way as the mausoleum in another. They are crossed by canals lined with white marble, there are numerous marble fountains, and grateful relief to the prevailing white tone in a number of cypress trees.

The mausoleum stands on a marble terrace elevated eighteen feet above the general level of the gardens. The main building, 313 feet square, is, roughly speaking, a superb shell enclosing the tomb proper, which is a special structure in the interior some 186 feet square.

There are no windows, light being admitted through screens of marble trellis work of the most exquisite design. The city climb the hills, in three great terdevice would make the interior of the buildraces, giving every house an outlook over ing gloomy if it were set up in New York, in India the atmosphere is usually so blinding bright that the effect is an agreeable softening of the glare that is nicely oats, great hogsheads of wine and other adjusted to the most effective display of stuff ready for export. The wharves are some of the most wenderful decorative effects known to architecture.

The wails are in messios in which twelve hauled up and down the hills by mules. I different precious stones figure in amazing have seen here seven huge hogsheads of abundance. Among the jewels used in wine on one dray drawn by four mules these mural decorations are agates, bloodhitched up tandem, and other drays carry- stones and jaspers, but the lapis lazulf leads in quantity and brilliancy of effect. It is divided into three provinces, each a photograph of him. His dance was a in the United States. All traffic here goes It is impossible to estimate the money upon two wheels, and that from the load of value of the materials used in this remarkfive tons on a cart with a bed twenty feet able structure, but it is known that 20,000 men were occupied twenty-two years in erecting it. The Amir visited the Taj-Mahal as a religious duty and prayed there, There is one feature of the Amir's con-

versation that is altogether novel. He manages never to leave his listeners in the slightest doubt as to the intent of his remarks. "Gentlemen," he will say, "T am about to make a joke," or, "Gentlemen, I am about to tell a funny story." And, to clinch the certainty of avoiding misunderstanding, his face lights up with a harny smile when he comes to the point where the

Pointed Paragraphs

Usually the average man's good judyment shows up a few minutes late.

The man who is willing to do anything is seldom without anything to do.

A man may admit that he is a fool, but ft is seldom news to his acquaintances. If a man is ignorant he may learn, buts, if he knows too much there is no hope for-

nimself posing as the defendant in a breach-of-promise suit.

According to statistics nine-tenths of the men who commit suicide are married. comment is unnecessary.

The average man dislikes to give up his. seat in a crowded car to a woman because, he is afraid she will think he is trying to

It's a never-falling sign that a girl is inlove with a young man when she begins to want to read the lotters he receives from other girlas-Chicago Nama.